Fair Price Shops in Rajpur Khurd Neb Sarai and Maidan Garhi villages in Delhi

3112. SHRIMATI KAILASHPATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the owners of fair price shops and kerosene oil depots in village Rajpur Khurd, Neb Sarai and Maidan Garhi, New Delhi do not open the shops regularly with the connivance of Rationing Inspectors and due to this public of these villages suffer very badly and also the kerosene oil and the sugar are sold in black market by them;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the owners of Fair Price Shops and kerosene depot in the above said villages also run other shops elsewhere with the result that they seldom keep the interest of the public in mind; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Delhi Administration has reported that Fair Price Shop (FPS) holders are prohibited from trading in the commodities which are covered by Public Distribution System and are not permitted, since 1978, to have another FPS/kerosene Oil Depot in his name or in the name or in the name of his family members. No such instance of violation of these instructions by the FPS holders in these three villages have come to the notice of Delhi Administration.

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act

3113. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Consumer Protection Act (CPA) to give it more teeth;

(b) if so, what is the nature of the amendment contemplated; and

(c) by when the legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government had earlier constituted a Working Group which has suggested certain amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Some of the recommendations for giving more teeth to the said Act are as follows:

(i) to vest the three-tier redressal agencies with additional powers such as powers to issue cease and disist order, recall of defective and unsafe goods etc;

(ii) to restrict the role of lawyers in the three-tier redressal agencies;

(iii) to bring the decisions of the National Commission/State Commissions/ District Forums within the Article 323 B of the Constitution so as to exclude writ Jurisdiction of High Court.

At present, the recommendations are under consideration of the Government and it will take some more time before a legislation is introduced to this effect.

Price rise of essential commodities

3114. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rise in prices of essential commodities during the last six months, item-wise;

(b) the percentage of increase in the Industrial index since January, 1992; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check the rise in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A Statement showing the percentage variation in the wholesale price indices of selected essen-